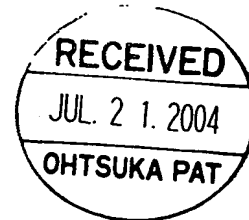


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

OHTSUKA YASUNORI

**7th FL., SHUWA KIOICHO PARK
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TOKYO 102-0094 JAPAN**

Date of mailing (day/month/year)	20. 7. 2004
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Applicant's or agent's file reference P204-0118WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
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International application No. PCT/JP2004/005233	International filing date (day/month/year) 13. 04. 2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 23. 04. 2003
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International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC Int.Cl. ⁷ H04L12/28, G06F3/12
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Applicant CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA
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1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP Japan Patent Office 3-4-3, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8915, Japan	Authorized officer TUTOMU NAKAKI Telephone No. +81-3-3581-1101 Ext. 3596	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> 5X 9299 </div>
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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/005233

Box No. I

Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

- ☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

- ☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing

- ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/ 005233

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-12</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>5</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>1-4, 6-12</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-12</u>	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

The following document has been considered for the purpose of this report:

D1 = [JP 2002-244829 A]

D2 = [JP 2003-091467 A]

D3 = [JP 2003-085548 A]

Document 1 discloses

A connection control method for an information processing apparatus, comprising:
a step of inquiring, of other information processing apparatuses in the wirelessly connected wireless network, whether the other information processing apparatuses have a function of performing predetermined processing (step 203: fig 2).

Document 2 discloses

a step of receiving identification information for identifying each network out of a plurality of wireless network.

Document 3 discloses

one of the other information processing apparatuses which has first positively responded is controlled to be connected.

The subject matter of claim 1-4, 6-12 does not involve an inventive step over D1, D2 and D3 for the following reasons.

The technical feature in D1, the feature in D2 and the feature in D3 are concerned with mutually related technical fields.

Therefore, the skilled person in the art would easily conceive the idea of employing the feature in D2 and D3 to substitute the feature disclosed in D1.

The subject matter of claim 5 is considered to involve an inventive step over D1, D2 and D3 for the following reasons:

None of D1, D2 and D3 describes [when the response to the inquiry is a negative response or no response exists, another information processing apparatus in a wireless network other than the wirelessly connected wireless network is controlled to be connected] the feature in claim 5.